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**APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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TITLE OF INVENTION: RFI SUPPRESSION CHOKES WITH
INTEGRAL ATTACHMENT FEATURES AND
EXTENSION LEGS TO REPLACE BUS BARS

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, THE FOLLOWING IS
A SPECIFICATION OF THE AFORESAID INVENTION**

RFI SUPPRESSION CHOKES WITH INTEGRAL ATTACHMENT FEATURES AND EXTENSION LEGS TO REPLACE BUS BARS

This application is based on U.S. Provisional Application No.
5 60/227,175, filed August 23, 2000 and claims the benefit thereof for priority
purposes.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to d.c. electric motors for automotive
10 applications and, more particularly, to a choke having features for improved
mechanical and electrical connection with components of a brush card
assembly.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Typical multi-pole automotive d.c. electric motors use bus bars to
conduct current between the electrical connector of the motor and associated
components such as chokes, capacitors, and brushes. Conventional bus
bars have to be manufactured and physically attached, supported and
connected with the motor. Typically, the bus bars are riveted to the brush
20 card of the motor. The electrical connection is usually achieved using
soldered or heat-fused joints.

Thus, there is a need to reduce the number of electrical connections
required on the motor's brush card, to eliminate costly bus bars and to reduce
the number of separate mechanical fasteners needed on the brush card.

Furthermore, conventionally, wound wire coils or chokes are installed close to the brushes of d.c. motors, particularly in automotive applications. The purpose of the chokes is to suppress radio-frequency interference (RFI) generated by the motor. Generally, the chokes are physically attached to the brush card of the motor using fixing or fastening techniques that require additional specific parts or processes, for example, the ends of the chokes may be soldered to conductors that are riveted to the brush card, the chokes may be installed within purpose-designed locations molded into the brush card, and/or clips or other fasteners may be used to attached the chokes.

Hence, there is also a need to provide secure mechanical attachment of the choke to the brush card while avoiding the necessity of either a molded brush card or specific fastening components.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to fulfill the needs referred to above. In accordance with the principles of the present invention, this objective is obtained by providing a choke for suppressing radio-frequency interference of a brush-type motor. The choke includes a single wire having a portion wound about a coil axis to define a plurality of coils including two outermost coils. An attaching structure extends from each outermost coil and is disposed generally transverse with respect to the coil axis. Each attaching structure is constructed and arranged to be inserted through an associated

opening in a supporting structure and to be bent so as secure the choke to the supporting structure. An elongated end portion extends from each attaching structure so as to be spaced from and generally parallel to the coil axis. The elongated end portions extend in opposite directions. One of the
5 elongated end portions is constructed and arranged to be directly electrically connected to an electrical connector of a motor and the other of the elongated end portions is constructed and arranged to be in electrical connection with a brush of the motor.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a brush card
10 assembly for a d.c. motor includes at least one choke having a portion wound about a coil axis to define a plurality of coils including two outermost coils, an attaching structure extending from each outermost coil and being generally transverse with respect to the coil axis. An elongated end portion extends from each attaching structure so as to be spaced from and generally parallel
15 to the coil axis, the elongated end portions extending in opposite directions. The assembly further includes a brush card having first and second opposing sides and a pair of openings through the opposing sides. Each attaching structure is disposed through an associated opening and bent so as to be adjacent to the second side, with the wound portion of the choke being
20 disposed on the first side of the brush card, such that the choke is secured to the brush card. A brush is mounted on the brush card and is in electrical connection with one of the elongated end portions. An electrical connector is mounted on the brush card. The electrical connector has a terminal receiving

the other elongated end portion of the choke.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the invention, a method of connecting a choke to a brush card assembly is provided. The choke include a portion wound about a coil axis to define a plurality of coils including two outermost coils. An attaching structure extends from each outermost coil and is disposed generally transverse with respect to the coil axis. An elongated end portion extends from each attaching structure so as to be spaced from and generally parallel to the coil axis. The elongated end portions extend in opposite directions. The brush card assembly includes a brush card having first and second opposing sides and a pair of openings through the opposing sides. A brush and an electrical connector are mounted on the brush card. The electrical connector has a terminal. The method includes the steps of inserting each attaching structure through an associated opening, with the wound portion of the choke being disposed on the first side of the brush card, bending each attaching structure so as to be adjacent to the second side, thereby securing the choke to the brush card, directly electrically connecting one of the elongated end portions with the terminal, and electrically connecting the other elongated end portion with the brush.

Other objects, features and characteristics of the present invention, as well as the methods of operation and the functions of the related elements of the structure, the combination of parts and economics of manufacture will become more apparent upon consideration of the following detailed

description and appended claims with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form a part of this specification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a choke for a d.c motor provided in accordance with the principles of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a right end view of the choke of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is view of a front of a brush card assembly of the invention showing a pair of chokes mounted to a brush card and connected to terminals of a motor connector; and

FIG. 4 is a view of the back of brush card assembly of the invention showing chokes crimped to secure the chokes to the brush card.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIG. 1, a choke, generally indicated 10, for suppressing radio-frequency interference of a brush-type, multi-pole d.c. motor, is shown in accordance with the principles of the invention. The choke 10 comprises a single conductive wire 12 having a portion 15 wound about a coil axis A to define a plurality of coils 14 including two outermost coils, 16 and 18. The choke 10 includes an attaching structure, generally indicated at 20 and 20', extending from each of outermost coils 16 and 18, generally transverse with

respect to the coil axis A. An elongated end portion 22 extends from each attaching structure 20 and 20' so as to be spaced from and generally parallel to the coil axis A. The elongated end portions 22 extend in opposite directions from the attaching structures 20 and 20' a distance substantially equal to a length of the portion 15 wound about the axis A. A center axis B and C of each elongated end portion 22 is disposed on a common plane P.

In the illustrated embodiment, attaching structure 20 includes a first portion 24 bent to extend transversely from an associated elongated end portion 22 and generally along the plane P. A second portion 26 is bent to extend downwardly and transversely with respect to the first portion 24. A third portion 28 is bent to extend from the second portion 26 so as to be generally parallel with the first portion 24, but below plane P. A fourth portion 30 bent to extend upwardly from the third portion 28 to the outermost coil 16. The fourth portion 30 is generally parallel with respect to the second portion 26.

As best shown in FIG. 2, attaching structure 20' includes a first portion 27 bent to extend downwardly and transversely with respect to the elongated end portion 22". A second portion 29 is bent to extend transversely from the first portion 27 below plane P. A third portion 31 bent to extend upwardly from the second portion 29 to the outermost coil 18. The third portion 31 is generally parallel with respect to the first portion 27.

FIGS. 3 and 4 show the connection of chokes 10 of FIGS. 1 and 2 to a brush card assembly, generally indicated at 32. The brush card assembly 32

includes a brush card 34 having a first side 36 and an opposing second side 38. An electrical connector 40 and brushes 42 are mounted to the brush card 34. The brush card 34 includes two pairs of openings 43 therethrough. One pair of openings 43 is associated with one choke 10 for mounting the
5 choke to the brush card 34. Each opening 43 is sized to receive an associated attaching structure 20 or 20' of the choke 10. Thus, during assembly each attaching structure 20 and 20' is disposed through an associated opening 43 with the wound portion 15 of the choke 10 being disposed on the first side 36 of the brush card 34. The attaching structures
10 20 and 20' are bent generally 90 degrees about axis D (which, as shown in FIG. 1, is parallel to the coil axis A) so as to engage, or at least be adjacent to, the second side 38 of the brush card 34 thus securing the choke 10 with respect to the brush card 34. In the illustrated embodiment, the attaching structures 20 and 20' are bent outwardly or away from each other, but it can
15 be appreciated that the attaching structures 20 and 20' can be bent toward each other to achieve the same securing function.

The use of the attaching structures 20 and 20' avoids the need for separate choke fastening components or a molded brush card, provides a simple attachment of the chokes, and reduces the need for environmentally-
20 sensitive solder pastes or adhesives.

As best shown in FIG. 3, since the end portions 22 are elongated, one of the end portions 22' is coupled to a terminal 44 of the connector 40. In particular, the terminal 44 defines an open channel 48 which receives at least

a portion of the end portion 22'. The other end portion 22" is electrically coupled to a brush shunt wire 46.

The use of elongated end portions 22 of the choke 10 reduces the number of electrical connections required on the brush card, eliminates the
5 costly manufactured bus bars, and reduces the number of separate mechanical fasteners need on the brush card.

The foregoing preferred embodiments have been shown and described for the purposes of illustrating the structural and functional principles of the present invention, as well as illustrating the methods of
10 employing the preferred embodiments and are subject to change without departing from such principles. Therefore, this invention includes all modifications encompassed within the spirit of the following claims.